



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

March 27, 2015

Dear Colleague,

We would like to invite you, or a representative of your organization, to the Joint West Coast Protected Fish Species Science Review, which will take place at NOAA's Western Regional Center, Sand Point, Seattle, WA, May 4-8, 2015. High quality science is fundamental to NOAA as a science-based agency. To maximize the transparency and effectiveness of its science and its value to NOAA and the nation, NMFS conducts yearly peer reviews of scientific activities at each of its six Science Centers. The Joint SWFSC/NWFSC Protected Fish Species Science Review will focus on ESA-listed Pacific salmon and steelhead, but will also address ESA-listed green sturgeon, eulachon and Puget Sound rockfish (yelloweye rockfish, canary rockfish, and bocaccio). A separate joint SWFSC/NWFSC review will be conducted later in the year focusing on West Coast protected marine mammal and turtle science.

In 2015 all NMFS Science Centers will be reviewed on Protected Species Science supporting the US Endangered Species Act and the US Marine Mammal Protection Act. The objective for these reviews is to examine and evaluate each Center's current scientific programs that provide information relative to the conservation and management of marine mammals, endangered or threatened wildlife and species of concern under NMFS jurisdiction. Reviewers will provide advice to the Centers on the direction and quality of their protected species science programs. Additional information about the NMFS reviews and results of previous reviews can be found here: <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/science-program-review/>.

The experts reviewing our science are respected members of the scientific community and are internal as well as external to NOAA. Our Program Review is open to the public and time has been set aside May 4-6 for comments from stakeholders and the public.

The terms of reference for the review are posted on this webpage: <https://swfsc.noaa.gov/2015WestCoastProtectedFishReview/> as are meeting logistics. The agenda and background documents provided to the reviewers will be posted in the coming weeks. After the review is complete, the panel's comments and NMFS' response will also be available on this webpage.

We look forward to a productive review of this important part of NMFS' portfolio. If you would like to join some or all of the meeting, RSVP to Christine Holt (Christine.Holt@noaa.gov) by April 24.

Most sincerely,

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